



# PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF STIRLINGSHIRE

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Dear Brother Secretaries,

Brethren,

On the Opening of the Lodges can I advise to exercise a bit of caution for the first couple of meetings until the Office-bearers and Brethren get used to the new practices we must put in place. Possible suggestion would be holding business meetings with Lodge members only, this would also help clear any backlog of business that needs to come before open Lodge.

Hopefully the following points may answer some questions that could arise.

- No Covid Officer required.
- Risk Assessment still required.
- Lodge Secretary to have an accurate record of all Brethren who attend the meetings.
- QR codes or track and trace required.
- Regular cleaning/sanitisation of the Lodge required.
- Hand sanitisers/cleaning stations made available.
- Social distancing not necessary.
- Face masks to be worn when entering/leaving the Lodge, can be removed when seated but must be worn when singing.
- The Master may remove his mask when speaking as can the Wardens when opening and closing the Lodge.
- An Office-bearer delivering a lecture may remove his mask but stay at a respectable distance from candidate.
- Face visors could be an alternative to face masks.
- Office-bearers and Candidate to wear gloves, consider the use of disposable gloves.
- Disposable blindfolds for the candidates
- Consider making the collection a retiral collection and the money not counted until the following day.
- This advice is subject to change depending on guidance/instruction from the Scottish Administration and Grand Lodge.

Some Brethren may feel apprehensive/uncomfortable in attending the Lodge at this time, there must be absolutely no pressure whatsoever put on this Brother to attend.

Grand Master Mason Brother Ramsay McGhee has stated that the last thing Freemasonry needs is for a Masonic Lodge to be a source of infection, can you imagine the headlines in the press?

Update on the following Laws,

**Law 122**, where a Lodge will be declared inactive if they fail to hold three consecutive regular meetings. This Law is currently suspended until the end of the year.

**Law 126**, regarding a Brother in arrears of their annual dues. The Amnesty remains in place until February 2022. Returning member only pays for the current year.

**Law 170**, If the candidate is not Initiated or Affiliated within a 12 Month period from the date of Ballot has been suspended until the end of this year. Basically, Brethren who passed the ballot for either initiation/affiliation, before all Masonic meetings were suspended, do not have to be re-balloted.

Until the end of this year, Nomination and Election, of Office-bearers, may take place on the same day as the Installation. Dispensation required.

Fraternally,

Brother Gordon W. S. Sewell

R. W. P. G. M.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

*Ronnie Hay*

**Bro. Ronald Hay**

**Provincial Grand Secretary**